



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Service List in Net Metering, D.P.U. 08-75  
Via Email

FROM: Shaela McNulty Collins, Hearing Officer

DATE: October 28, 2008

RE: Ground Rules for Technical Conference To Be Held on October 30, 2008

cc: Mary Cottrell, Secretary

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#### I. GROUND RULES

##### A. Introduction

In light of the large number of requests to participate in the technical conference to be held on October 30, 2008, and in order to ensure that the discussion is informative and constructive, the Department issues the following ground rules.

##### B. Objectives

The goal of the technical conference is to discuss issues associated with implementing the net metering provisions of the Green Communities Act. Specifically, the Department expects to develop a better understanding of the issues addressed in the discussion materials distributed on October 17, 2008 and identify any additional issues that the Department should consider. The Department seeks to encourage a free exchange of information between diverse stakeholders in order to assist the Department in developing appropriate regulations on net metering. To achieve this end in an effective and efficient manner in light of the limited time available for the technical conference, the Department may be required to limit the issues to be addressed, limit the number of interested persons who can comment on each issue, and will likely impose a time-limit on participation. Accordingly, the Department suggests that interested persons select only the issues that are most important to them for discussion at the technical conference and reserve discussion of all other issues for the written comments.

C. Additional Opportunity for Comments

To the extent that issues are not addressed during the technical conference or if interested persons would like to provide the Department with additional information, reply comments may be filed by the close of business on November 12, 2008. Reply comments are, however, not required.

Please bear in mind that this is the first step in the process of developing net metering rules and regulations as required by the Green Communities Act. The next step is for the Department to initiate a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2 and 220 C.M.R. § 2.05 on net metering. As part of that process, the Department will promulgate proposed net metering regulations. There will be opportunity to comment on these proposed net metering regulations, including at a public hearing and by way of written comments.

D. Ground Rules

Interested persons will be given a chance to express their opinions and make suggestions at appropriate junctures, as determined by the Hearing Officer. The Department asks that interested persons please:

1. State their name and affiliation before speaking.
2. Speak clearly as there will be no microphones in use.
3. Provide concise comments, with consideration of the limited amount of time available for discussion.
4. Avoid introductory remarks and formalities.
5. Provide a programmatic-level discussion of the issues and avoid discussion of project-specific merits.

E. FILING REQUIREMENTS

Hard copies of all documents must be filed with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Please file one original and three (3) copies and direct one copy to Shaela Collins, Hearing Officer. In addition, all documents filed in this docket should be submitted to the Department in electronic format.<sup>1</sup> Documents will be available for public inspection at the Department's offices during business hours. Also, copies of documents that are filed electronically will be available on the Department's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. For additional information, please contact Shaela Collins, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3611.

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<sup>1</sup> All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and the hearing officer [[Shaela.Collins@state.ma.us](mailto:Shaela.Collins@state.ma.us)]; or (2) on a 3.5" disk or CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail, disk label, or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 08-75); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be created in either Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or Adobe Acrobat (version 7 or higher). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel (version 2000). The Department strongly encourages filers to avoid submitting scanned files but will accept them for posting when an alternative version does not exist in electronic format.